

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

Washington Field

FILE NO. 31-1803

REPORT MADE AT Washington, D.C.	DATE WHEN MADE 2/10/50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/30/50	REPORT MADE BY LAWRENCE E. BUSCHER LEB:NB
TITLE BENJAMIN BERNSTEIN PHYLLIS JEANETTE BERNSTEIN - VICTIM NEW CALIF.			CHARACTER OF CASE WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject and wife alleged to have been engaged in prostitution at the Harris Hotel, each denying participation. Subject admits arrest for pandering and victim admits prostitution in Norfolk, Virginia.

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## DETAILS:

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

Instant case is predicated upon information received from Lt. ROY ALICK of the Vice Squad, Metropolitan Police Department, who advised that subject and victim, who are man and wife, had been alleged to be engaged in prostitution at the Harris Hotel and that the victim had just come from Petersburg, Virginia. He further advised that they had both been previously interviewed by the Norfolk Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding prostitution.

PHYLLIS JEANETTE BERNSTEIN advised that her maiden name was ALICK and that she was born in [REDACTED]

She advised that on January 22, 1950, she arrived in Washington, D.C. and obtained a room at the Commodore Hotel. She then called her husband, BENJAMIN BERNSTEIN, and advised him of her arrival and has been with BERNSTEIN since

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>Guy Hottel</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>3/1/51</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <i>71-220-7</i>	RECORDED <i>51</i>
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that date at the Commodore, Bellevue and Harris Hotels. She advised that she and BERNSTEIN had been separated for some time and that during this time she had been residing in Richmond, Virginia at the Sharle Apartments with a WILLIAM SCHWARTZ. She stated that SCHWARTZ is a friend and that he paid her rent and also furnished her with necessities. She stated she was unaware as to SCHWARTZ'S actual occupation but believed that he was a bootlegger. She stated that she had first married BERNSTEIN in February, 1945 and they were divorced sometime during 1945. Shortly after this she engaged in prostitution in Norfolk, Virginia and while so engaged she was questioned by an agent of the Norfolk Office of the FBI by the name of SMITH.

She stated that after being interviewed by SMITH, she was afraid to engage further in prostitution and since that interview, has not resumed that occupation. She advised that her husband BERNSTEIN was aware of the fact that she had engaged in prostitution before her marriage and that they had been remarried in July, 1948. She denied that she had ever engaged in prostitution with BERNSTEIN and that she had ever furnished him any funds whatsoever. She knew that BERNSTEIN at one time had been arrested for pandering however stated that this was the result of a complaint made by his former wife and that he was not convicted for it however he was convicted of being a vagrant and served one year.

She denied that she had engaged in prostitution since coming to Washington or that she had used her apartment in Richmond for the purpose of prostitution. She stated that she had left SCHWARTZ for the reason that he had beaten her on several occasions and that she had desired to return to her husband. She stated that he did not furnish her transportation from Petersburg where she left SCHWARTZ as she had hocked some rings she had and as a result was able to get to Washington. She did however state that before leaving SCHWARTZ in Petersburg, she had called BERNSTEIN to ask him whether or not he would take her back.

BENJAMIN BERNSTEIN, 317 Gallatin St., N.W., advised that he was born in Baltimore, Maryland on September 24, 1906. BERNSTEIN denied that he or his wife were engaged in prostitution and stated that he has never been a pimp for any prostitutes. He admitted that he had been arrested in Norfolk, Virginia for pandering however claimed that this was the result of a complaint made by his wife when they had both been arrested for disorderly conduct caused by them engaging in a fight. He claimed that after he and his wife had been arrested, she had advised the police that he had forced her into prostitution and that he had been charged at that time with pandering. These charges were dismissed however and the charge of



disorderly conduct placed instead for which he received a year. BERNSTEIN denied knowledge of the fact that his wife had engaged in prostitution and also denied that she had engaged in prostitution since coming to Washington. He stated that he was aware that his wife had been living with WILL SCHWARTZ in Richmond, Virginia and stated that SCHWARTZ had some sort of power over his wife whereby she would leave him and live with SCHWARTZ.

BERNSTEIN stated that he had no knowledge of his wife coming to Washington until he received a phone call one day previous to her arrival in which she asked if he would take her back and he advised that he would. BERNSTEIN stated that he is presently employed as a clerk in the grocery store of MORRIS ROSENBERG, 111 F St., S.W. and that during the summer months he is employed as an ice cream salesman.

BERNSTEIN stated that he was able to stay at the hotels for the period of one week as he had saved a little money during the month while he was employed as a grocery clerk however stated that his present savings amounted to about \$5.00. He vigorously denied that he had ever acted as a pander for anyone or that he had knowledge of the fact that his wife had been a prostitute. He claims that to the best of his knowledge he has never received any money from her and that he was her sole support while they were living together as man and wife.

A description of BERNSTEIN is as follows:

Name:	BENJAMIN BERNSTEIN
Address:	317 Gallatin St., N.W.
Age:	13 years
Date of birth:	September 24, 1906
Place of birth:	Baltimore, Maryland
Height:	5' 6"
Weight:	115 lbs.
Eyes:	Brown
Hair:	Black
Complexion:	Dark
Occupation:	Clerk and salesman
Relatives:	Mother, REBECCA MULLEN, 2008 Maplewood Ave., Richmond, Virginia
	Father, ISAAC BERNSTEIN, 2008 Maplewood Ave., Richmond, Virginia
	Brother, HARRY BERNSTEIN, Richmond, Virginia
	Brother, OSCAR BERNSTEIN, Petersburg, Virginia



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Sister, ESTHER GORDON, 2008 Rosewood Ave.,  
Richmond, Virginia  
Sister, ROSE KATZ, 2012 Maplewood Ave.,  
Richmond, Virginia  
Friend, A. M. T. FINCH, 3001 24th St., N.E.  
Friend, FRANK BOYKIN, 2232 R St., N.W.  
Friend, OTTO MILLER, 317 Callatin St., N.W.

A description of the victim is as follows:

Name:	PHILLIS JERNETTE BERNSTEIN nee ALVIS
Age:	23 years
Date of birth:	FOIA(b)(6)
Place of birth:	
Height:	5' 4"
Weight:	130 lbs.
Hair:	Brown
Eyes:	Blue
Relatives:	Mother, CORA THOMPSON, 1303 Avondale, Richmond, Virginia Father, GEORGE EDWARD ALVIS, deceased Daughter, PHILLIS ANN STEWART, 6 years old 3025 Gannasker Road, Richmond, Virginia Half brother, HARRY F. SIMPSON, 316 Mt. Harrison St., Richmond, Virginia Sister, Mrs. RUTH C. WEST, 1303 Avondale, Richmond, Virginia.

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